
NEWS From:

Congressman Mike Honda

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA



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Silicon Valley Gains a Voice on House Science Committee

Honda Successful in Bid to Gain Seat on Key Committee for Research, High Tech

Washington DC— U.S. Congressman Mike Honda (D-San Jose) today announced that he has secured a coveted slot on the House Science Committee—a panel that has oversight authority over all civilian and federal scientific research in the United States. The Science Committee also has jurisdiction on all matters relating to energy research, technological development, environmental research, technical standards, and national space policy. The Committee consists of four subcommittees: Energy, Research, Air & Space and Environmental, Technology & Standards.

“I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve as a strong voice on the Science Committee for our high tech companies and academic institutions,” said Honda. **“As we enter a new century it is essential that we make research and innovation a top national priority to improve our quality of life and sustain economic growth.”**

“In his first few months in Washington, Mike Honda has already proven to be a strong voice for research, technology and innovation in the United States Congress and will be a valuable addition to the Science Committee,” said the ranking Democrat on the Science Committee, Rep. Ralph Hall (D-TX).

“We are confident that Mike will serve as a bridge between the Committee and the vitally important high tech companies of his Silicon Valley District to bring all of us together to better understand the next generation of research and technology issues.”

In his first few months in Congress, Honda has been very active in the area of technology policy and has introduced a number of technology-driven proposals that have the strong support of industry. In March, Honda introduced *The National Education Technology Corps Act* or NET Corps, a bill that will recruit part-time and full-time volunteers from high-tech companies to provide support and training to school network administrators and teachers, in return for tax credits from the federal government. Honda has also worked intensely to support and enhance the competitive position of U.S. technology companies in the global marketplace. Honda strongly supports full funding for Research and Development and is fighting to make the R&D tax credit a permanent part of the U.S. tax code.

Honda also recently joined with California colleagues Reps. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) and David Dreier (R-CA) to place U.S. high tech companies on a level playing field with foreign competitors by updating the laws governing the export of supercomputers and high technology. Currently, U.S. computer makers must go through a lengthy bureaucratic process under the outmoded MTOPS (millions of theoretical operations per second) standard in order to export their products to foreign markets. Honda's bill, H.R. 1553, would repeal the MTOPS standard and give the President the needed flexibility to formulate a new standard that serves our long-term global security interests while allowing our innovative companies to get their products quickly to market to compete with foreign companies not subject to the same restrictions.

